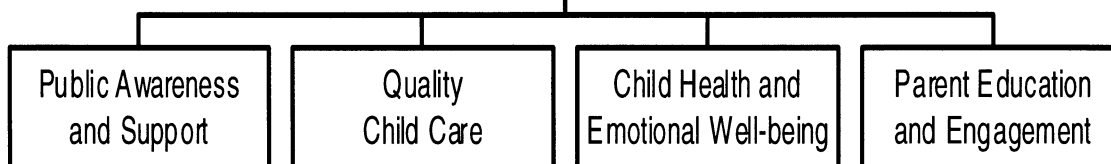


EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE

Every Child Ready For School



PROGRAM MISSION:

To assure that there is a comprehensive and coordinated system of services and supports to ensure that young children have the social/emotional, physical, language, and cognitive skills to be successful in kindergarten and life

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES SUPPORTED:

- Young children ready for school
- Children and adults who are physically and mentally healthy
- Children safe in their home, school, and community

COMMUNITY OUTCOME MEASURES

	FY01 ACTUAL	FY02 ACTUAL	FY03 ACTUAL	FY04 BUDGET	FY04 ACTUAL	FY05 APPROVED
Young children ready for school						
Percentage of entering Montgomery County Public Schools kindergarten students who scored in the "full readiness" category of the Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) screening ^a	^b 47	61	57	60	60	63
Healthy children						
Percentage of Montgomery County two-year olds with completed immunizations ^c	77	86	89	90	89	89

Notes:

^aThe Maryland Model for School Readiness (MMSR) is a school readiness framework designed to help teachers improve assessment and instructional techniques to support young children's readiness for school. The MMSR includes as its assessment component the Work Sampling System™, a nationally and internationally recognized state-of-the-art assessment system for early education.

^bFY01 was a pilot year.

^cEstimated for children below school age who are enrolled in childcare programs or in Department of Health and Human Services clinics. Records are available only on a limited basis (for instance, the program does not have access to records kept by private sector pediatricians).

EXPLANATION:

The Early Childhood Initiative is a unique public/private partnership that is working toward the shared vision that:

All children from before birth to age five will attain their full potential through quality early care and education, participation in appropriate programs, and the commitment of their families and communities.

Montgomery County has the potential to become a community of neighborhoods that welcomes babies, supports young children's development, and engages all segments of the populace as partners to ensure that our youngest citizens get the care and nurturance they need to build a solid foundation for future success. This is a broad-based effort to increase public awareness about the importance of the first five years of children's lives and to implement research-based strategies to support young children's healthy cognitive, social/emotional, motor, and physical development.

Early Childhood Services will continue to assist families and early childhood professionals in accessing programs for their young children through ChildLink, and the program will coordinate integrated outreach for programs for children 0-5 years old. Early Childhood Services will provide learning parties for multi-cultural parents and providers, coordination of training in early childhood mental health and health consultation, technical assistance and fiscal support for accreditation, and credentialing and other professional growth opportunities for the over 5,000 child care providers in the County. The Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center will counsel parents on how to select quality licensed child care for their children and will provide them with referrals to licensed providers. Through this system of services, parents and service providers for young children will be able to access appropriate services to support their efforts.

PROGRAM PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF OUTCOMES: Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services; Montgomery County Council; Board of Education; Montgomery County Public Schools; Montgomery County Collaboration Council for Children, Youth, and Families; Montgomery County Public Libraries; Montgomery County Commission on Child Care; Montgomery County Department of Recreation; Montgomery County Community Action Board; hospitals; numerous private community organizations/providers of services; Maryland Department of Education; Maryland Department of Human Resources; Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Governor's Office of Children, Youth, and Families.

MAJOR RELATED PLANS AND GUIDELINES: Montgomery County Early Childhood Comprehensive Services Plan; The Children's Agenda; Children First; Federal, State, and local statutes and/or policies and procedures.